

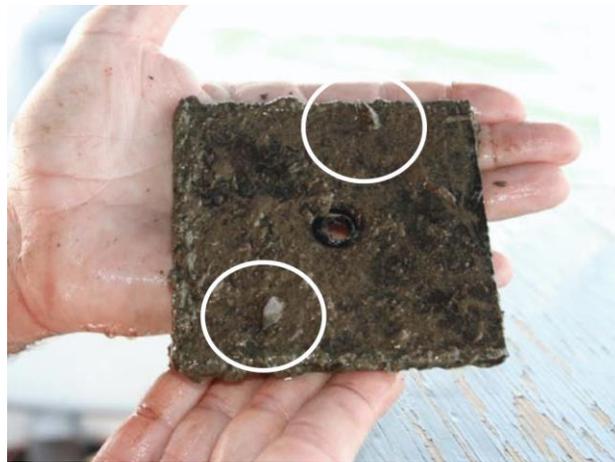
How to Inspect a Zebra Mussel Plate Sampler

To check for zebra mussels, hang a sampler from the underside of the dock. The mussels will attach to most any hard surface but a sampler attached to a rope is an easy and consistent way to check.

- Sampler should be checked weekly or every two weeks.
- It should hang approximately one foot above the lake bottom.
- Check by pulling out of the water and placing in a tub or tray.
- Disassemble the sampler or, if the plate sampling is adequate, it may be kept intact.
- Feel surface with fingertips for small bumps. When zebra mussels first attach they can be very small. Look for the D-shaped shell.
- If there are suspicious organisms, scrape them off the sampler into a bag. Contact AIS Detectors and Trackers Network for identification/verification.
- If the sampler is covered in muck, clean off and raise it higher in the water column. Otherwise return it to the water without cleaning. This will give any young zebra mussels that might be attached a chance to grow to a detectable size.
- Re-deploy and submit a report.



One zebra mussel found on the plate.



Two zebra mussels found on a plate.



Zebra mussel on a rock.



Other aquatic organisms (no zebra mussels present).

[Adopted by Blue Water Science, from text by the MCWD, "How to Use a Zebra/Quagga Mussel Sampler"]